

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 BIB-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ACDA-05 EURE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /059 W

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O 011145Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4774

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1552

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: RADIO LIBERTY

REF: A) STATE 041791: B) STATE 041792, C) STATE 044617

D) STATE 045655 3) MADRID 1247

1. WHEN I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA MORNING FEB 29. I TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE TO DRAW ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN QUESTION OF SPANISH ADHERENCE TO NPT AND PROBLEM OF RADIO LIBERTY. THE TWO ISSUES WERE UNRELATED BOTH IN SUBSTANCE AND IN TIMING. I EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WITH MARCH 23 RAPIDLY APPROACHING AND DESPITE SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS I HAD WITH HIM, WE HAD NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH HOW TO DEAL WITH RADIO LIBERTY. I SAID THAT INFORMATION MINISTRY HAD NOT HELP MATTERS BY FEB 23. MEETING ON INVENTORY AND BY CONTINUED INDICATIONS FROM THAT MONOSTRY THAT FOREIGN OFFICE HAS SET MARCH 23 AS CLOSING DATE OF RADIO LIBERTY. ALL OF THESE HAD A MOST UNSETTLING EFFECT ON RADIO LIBERTY SPANISH PERSONNEL AND ISSUE HAD NOW BEEN PUBLICIZED IN US PRESS I DREW ON REF D TO POINT OUT THAT THESE PRESS STATEMNTS DIS NOT HAVE DEPARTMENTS APPROVAL NOR DID VERTAIN PARTS REPRESENT USG VIEWS. I POINTED OUT THAT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON RL/RFE HAD STARTED OUT THAT ON FEB 25 AND WOULD CONTINUE MARCH 4 AND MARCH 9 THERE WERE MANY INFLUENTIAL

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SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WHO SUPPORTED RL/RFE. I TOLD

AREILZA THAT IF GOS COULD NOT SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO RENEGOTIATE ANOTHER CONTRACT, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN EXTENSION OF AT LEAST THREE YEARS.

2. AREILZA SAID GOS WOULD NOT WISH TO SIGN ANOTHER CONTRACT, BUT MIGHT BE WILLING TO CONSIDER AN EXTENSION OF, SAY, SIX MONTHS. THREE YEARS WAS MUCH TOO LONG, HE WOULD STUDY MATTER FURTHER WHEN HE RETURNED FROM HIS TRIP TO UK AND DENMARK ON MAR 4.

3. O TOLD AREILZ THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE SATISFACTORY EITHER AS TO EXTENSION PERIOD OR AS TO CONTINUING MON- ACTION UNTIL HIS RETURN. I SAID THAT SIX MONTHS WAS MUCH TOO SHORT AND I URGED HIM TO CONSIDER A PERIOD OF ANYWHERE FROM TWO TO THREE YEARS. ANY SHORTER PERIOD MADE NO SENSE. I WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN CONNECTION WITH CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO INDICATE THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON ISSUE AND THAT THERE WAS STILL THE POSSIBILITY THAT RL MIGHT BE CLOSED ON MARCH 23. I THEN SUGGESTED THAT HE AGREE TO MY REPORTING TO WASHINGTON THAT I HAD BEEN GIVEN ASSURANCES BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT RL WOULD DEFINITELY NOT RPT NOT BE CLOSED ON MARCH 23. AND THAT CONVERSATIONS WERE CONTINUING FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE RL CONTRACT.

4. AREILZA SAID HE AGREE WITH THIS FORMULATION. I THEN ASKED HIM SO TO INFORM THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD.

5. I TOLD AREILZA THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF BIB AND RL WERE PREPARED TO COME TO MADRID AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE THE EXTENSION WITH FOREIGN OFFICE AND INFORMATION MINISTRY. AREILZA REPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME FURTHER ON MARCH 6 ON HIS RETURN AT WHICH TIME WE COULD WORK OUT TIMING OF VISIT OF BIB AND RL REPRESENTATIVES.

6. AS I LEFT AREILZA, I REPEATED ONCE AGAIN THE FORMULATION I HAD SUGGESTED (PARA 3 ABOVE) AND AGAIN ASKED WHETHER HE AGREED. HE ASSURED ME HE DID AND THAT WE

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WOULD RESUME DISCUSSIONS ON EXTENSION NEXT WEEK.

7. COMMENT: I HAVE INFORMED GEORGE DENNIS OB ABOVE TO PASS ON TO RL PEOPLE IN PALS SO AS TO REMOVE ANY APPREHENSIONS ABOUT MARCH 23 CLOSURE. I HAVE ASKED HIM NOT TO SPECULATE ON LENGTH OF EXTENSION. AREILZA IS CLEARLY DISPOSED TO AN EXTENSION AND I BELIEVE THAT HE CAN BE MOVED BEYOND THE SIX MONTH PERIOD

HE MENTIONED. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS CLEAR THAT HE
WILL NOT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THREE YEARS.
I WOULD SUGGEST THAT BIB ABD RL REPRESENTATIVES BE
PREPARED TO COME TO MADRID SHORTLY AFTER MARCH 8 TO HOLD
DISCUSSION WITH GOS. IF THIS IS AGREEABLE I WOULD
PROPOSE SO TO INFORM AREILZA WHEN I TALK WITH HIM NEXT
WEEK.

8. ARRIBA CARRIED EUROPE PRESS STORY FEB 29 TO EFFECT
THAT"ACCORDING TO COMPETENT SOURCES" SPAIN WILL GRANT AN
EXTENSION TO RL FOR "SEVERAL MONTHS" AND THAT CONVERSATIONS
ON THIS QUESTION ARE BEING HELD AT "EXPERT AND POLITICAL LEVELS".
STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, RADIO BROADCASTING, RADIO STATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID01552
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760077-0404
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603108/aaaadrhv.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 41792, 76 STATE 44617
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RADIO LIBERTY
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, SP, US, RADIO LIBERTY, (AREILZA Y MARTINEZ-RODAS, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006